

A group of Mr. Wisner's closest friends and associates have issued the following tribute:

"Frank Wisner, in the most literal sense, gave his life to public service.

"At the very outset of this country's unforeseen and unprepared role as a major power of the world, he was called upon to break new ground of the most dangerous, and for a major power, the most essential kind.

"In fact, he had to meet the long, prepared challenge of the vast Stalinist intelligence and subversion net. Thereafter, for about a decade, he devoted himself totally to one of the most onerous and difficult tasks any American public servant has ever had to undertake.

"This was combined, towards the end of this most important service, with a most acute attack of hepatitis, which he refused to care for because it came at a moment when pressures were very great and the questions to be answered were urgently important -- the time of Hungary and Suez.

"The double strain broke Frank Wisner's health. He was thereafter a man struggling with a grave illness--struggling bravely, manfully, for a long time successfully, but in the end vainly.

"What never can be broken is the image of Frank Wisner left with those who worked with him. He was brave yet wise, prudent yet strongly determined, and deeply American above all. Among pioneering men who have this not always happy responsibility--the men who must serve their country in obscurity--he will be remembered with Allen W. Dulles and other great names."